

Appln. No. 10/789,826

Amendment dated March 29, 2005

Reply to Office Action mailed December 29, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A taco shell heating apparatus comprising:
a housing having at least one slot positioned through a perimeter wall of said housing, said at least one slot selectively receiving a taco shell;
a heating assembly positioned within said housing, said heating assembly toasting the taco shell when the taco shell is received within the housing;

a pair of heat reflective elements associated with said at least one slot, said pair of heat reflective elements being dispersed on either side of said slot;

a heating element positioned along each of said pair of heat reflective elements and between said pair of heat reflective elements along a bottom of said housing;

a timing means operationally coupled to said heating element to control a duration of heating; and

and a extraction means for facilitating removal of said taco shell from said at least one slot.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said heating assembly being adapted for utilizing conventional household ac power.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said heating assembly being adapted for utilizing dc power.

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5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing having an overall length of approximately eleven inches, an overall width of approximately ten and one half inches, and an overall height of approximately seven and one half inches.

6. (Currently Amended) A taco shell heating apparatus comprising:
a housing having four slots positioned through a top wall of said housing, each one of said four slots being for selectively receiving a taco shell;

a heating assembly positioned within said housing, said heating assembly toasting the taco shell when the taco shell is received within the housing;

five heat reflective elements associated with said four slots, each one of said five heat reflective elements being positioned on an associated side of one of said four slots;

a heating element positioned along each of said heat reflective elements and between each of heat reflective elements along a bottom of said housing;

a timing means operationally coupled to said heating element to control a duration of heating;

and a extraction means for facilitating removal of said taco shell from said four slots.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7 1, wherein each one of said five heat reflective elements comprises a sheet of mica.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7 1, wherein said heating element comprises nichrome wire.

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10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7 1, wherein said extraction means further comprises:

a first handle for selectively elevating the taco shell out of a first pair of said four slots; and

a second handle for selectively elevating the taco shell out of a second pair of said four slots.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7 1, wherein said housing having an overall length of approximately eleven inches, an overall width of approximately ten and one half inches, and an overall height of approximately seven and one half inches.

12. (Original) A taco shell heating apparatus comprising:

a housing having four slots positioned through a top wall of said housing, each one of said four slots being for selectively receiving a taco shell;

a heating assembly positioned within said housing, said heating assembly toasting the taco shell when the taco shell is received within the housing;

wherein said heating assembly further comprises:

five heat reflective elements associated with said four slots, each one of said five heat reflective elements being positioned on an associated side of one of said four slots;

a heating element positioned along each of said heat reflective elements and between each of heat reflective elements along a bottom of said housing;

a timing means operationally coupled to said heating element to control a duration of heating;

and a extraction means for facilitating removal of said taco shell from said four slots;

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wherein each one of said five heat reflective elements comprises a sheet of mica;

wherein said heating element comprises nichrome wire;

wherein said extraction means further comprises:

a first handle for selectively elevating the taco shell out of a first pair of said four slots;

a second handle for selectively elevating the taco shell out of a second pair of said four slots; and

said housing having an overall length of approximately eleven inches, an overall width of approximately ten and one half inches, and an overall height of approximately seven and one half inches.